

White-tailed Black Cockatoo Nesting Behaviour.—On July 4, 1963, while visiting the Lake Magenta Reserve with the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee I noticed isolated pairs of cockatoos (*Calyptrorhynchus baudini*) examining nesting hollows in salmon gums. In each case they were found in odd pockets of these gums in what was mainly mallee-scrub country vegetation. One pair was at Sullivan's Soak and the other at Reedy's Dam. During the same period we saw a flock of 30 flying low over low scrub country, and another flock of three birds—probably a family party—over similar country. On the way back west of Marradong we saw a flock of some 80 birds in a paddock beside the road. The above would appear to indicate that breeding pairs tend to select isolated areas to nest.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, Coolup.

Nesting of the Red-tailed Tropic-bird near Cape Naturaliste.—Hitherto the southernmost known nesting record of the Red-tailed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon rubricauda*) was from an unfrequented beach at Busselton in November 1939. However, during late October or early November 1963 Mr. C. Knott, of Boyanup, found a nesting pair about one mile south of Cape Naturaliste, near Sugarloaf Rock. One of the birds was dead and the other flew off leaving the egg. This was of a greyish-white ground colour, heavily marked all over with grey-brown streakings. It measured 61.9 x 46.2 mm. Mr. Knott said the dead bird showed no sign of injury and he thought it might have died from exhaustion as there had been severe storms during the previous few days. The egg was on the mainland under a rocky ledge. Circling around the Sugarloaf Rock there were three more Tropic-birds and it is possible they were nesting on the island. This Rock is about 150 ft. above sea-level and about 100 ft. in diameter. It was the first time he had seen any Tropic-birds in the area.

It is probably this dead bird whose remains were later collected by Lyall McHugh (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 9: 120), and the immature bird picked up near Collic, reported by H. B. Shugg (*ibid.*) may have originated from this or some nearby nesting station.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Wembley Downs.

Some Snakes New for Western Australia.—Over the last two years the following four species of snake have been collected for the first time in this State. All of them are figured in Kinghorn's *Snakes of Australia*.

Typhlops ligatus Peters. Previously known from eastern Australia. One of these blind-snakes was collected recently by Mr. K. T. Richards at the Kimberley Research Station (Ord River).

Typhlops endoterus Waite. Previously known from Hermannsburg, Northern Territory. That it extends into adjacent parts of this State was abundantly demonstrated by Mr. Mark de Graaf who sent to the Museum six specimens from Warburton Range and another from 70 miles south.

Acrochordus granulatus (Schneider). The File Snake occurs in coastal and estuarine waters from India to the Northern Territory